AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

I.   Please replace paragraph [0005] in its entirety with the following paragraph, wherein markings are included to show changes made.

> [0005] Business process orchestrations may be implemented using a business process software language such as, for example, XLANG/s. A business orchestration product, such as ~~Microsoft~~ <u>MICROSOFT</u> Corporation's BizTalk™ software application, allows a user to quickly design, define and deploy automated business processes that span programs, technologies, platforms and business partners. BizTalk™'s Orchestration Designer is a XLANG/s tool for designing an orchestration service that implements one or more business processes. In particular, the Orchestration Designer provides a graphical means for creating software code, where visual symbols representing a business process can be placed in a display in a "drag-and-drop" fashion to implement the business process. The Orchestration Designer thereby creates an environment that enables a user to implement a business process in an orchestration service graphically, without requiring the user to be familiar with the software code represented by the XLANG/s programming language.

II.   Please replace paragraph [0036] in its entirety with the following paragraph, wherein markings are included to show changes made.

> For example, ~~MICROSOFT®'s~~ <u>MICROSOFT Corporation's</u> .NET platform includes servers, building-block services, such as web-based data storage, and downloadable device software. Generally speaking, the .NET platform provides (1) the ability to make the entire range of computing devices work together and to have user information automatically updated and synchronized on all of them, (2) increased interactive capability for web sites, enabled by greater use of XML rather than HTML, (3) online services that feature customized access and delivery of products and services to the user from a central starting point for the management of various applications, such as e-mail, for example, or software, such as Office .NET, (4) centralized data storage, which will increase efficiency and ease of access to information, as well as synchronization of information among users and devices, (5)

the ability to integrate various communications media, such as e-mail, faxes, and telephones, (6) for developers, the ability to create reusable modules, thereby increasing productivity and reducing the number of programming errors, and (7) many other cross-platform integration features as well.

III.   Please replace paragraph [0042] in its entirety with the following paragraph, wherein markings are included to show changes made.

> XLANG/s is a language that describes the logical sequencing of business processes, as well as the implementation of the business process by using various technology components or services. XLANG/s is described in more detail than is disclosed herein in a document titled "XLANG/s Language Specification," Version 0.55, Copyright © ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT 1999-2000, and a document titled "XLANG Web Services For Business Process Design," Satish Thatte, Copyright © ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT Corporation 2001, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. The XLANG language is expressed in Extensible Markup Language (XML). XLANG/s is a modern, domain specific, special purpose language used to describe business processes and protocols. XLANG/s is also a declarative language, which means that it defines an explicit instruction set that describes and implements steps in a business process, the relationship between those steps, as well as their semantics and interactions. In addition, XLANG/s code is not just descriptive; it is also designed to be executable. Because of the declarative nature of XLANG/s and its specific semantics, the resulting executable code is deterministic; that is, the behavior of the running business process is well defined by the semantics of the collection of XLANG/s instructions. Therefore, by examining XLANG/s code one is able to determine the business process that is carried out by such code. As noted above, the definition of such a business process in executable form is an "orchestration service."

IV.   Please replace paragraph [0043] in its entirety with the following paragraph, wherein markings are included to show changes made.

XLANG/s is compatible with many Internet standards. XLANG/s is designed to use
XML, XSLT (http://www.w3.org/TR/xslt), XPATH (http://www.w3.org/TR/xpath),
XSD (XML Schema Definition) and WSDL (Web Services Description Language) as
supported standards and has embedded support for working with .NET based objects
and messages. WSDL is described in a document titled "Web Services Description
Language (WSDL) 1.1," W3C Note January 2001, by ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT and
IBM Research, Copyright © 2000 Ariba, ~~International Business Machines~~ IBM
Corporation, ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT, and is hereby incorporated by reference in its
entirety. The XLANG/s language is syntactically similar to C#, thus a C#
specification may also be referenced as an aid to understanding the exact syntax. The
semantics embodied in XLANG/s are a reflection of those defined in a document
entitled "Business Process Execution Language for Web Services," Version 1.1, dated
March 31, 2003, published by ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT, IBM and BEA for the
definition of Business Process semantics, which is also hereby incorporated by
reference in its entirety. The Business Process Execution Language for Web Services
specification is commonly referred to as the "BPEL4WS" specification. As may be
appreciated, therefore, the use of XLANG/s is most advantageous when applied to a
business process.